

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 17 of 1898.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd April 1898.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		CALCUTTA.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	25,000	16th April, 1898.	
2	"Basunati" ...	Ditto	15,000	21st ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	19th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	15th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,600	15th and 22nd ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	15th ditto.	
7	"Samutthan" ...	Ditto	....	20th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	16th ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	1,000	18th ditto.	
10	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	200	16th and 18th to 22nd April, 1898.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	16th to 18th and 20th April, 1898.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	2,000	14th, 16th and 18th to 21st April, 1898.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200	15th, 16th, and 18th to 21st April, 1898.	
HINDI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto	400		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	18th April, 1898.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	6,500	18th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500	11th and 18th ditto.	
2	"Mefta-hur-zafar" ...	Ditto	.....	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta ...	320	14th April, 1898.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	330	11th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475	17th April 1898.	
Weekly.					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572	16th April, 1898.	
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	12th ditto.	
3	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400	17th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	15th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
Weekly.					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	655	20th April, 1898.	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	15th ditto.	
URIYA.					
ORISSA DIVISION.					
Weekly.					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400		
HINDI.					
PATNA DIVISION.					
Monthly.					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
Weekly.					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	15th April, 1898.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
BENGALI.					
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.					
Weekly.					
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243	13th ditto	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	800		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755	12th April 1898.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315	12th ditto.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	300	10th April, 1898.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	11th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	17th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	15th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	16th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	18th April, 1898.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	450		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong ...	.....	14th April, 1898.	
2	"Sansodhini" ...	Ditto ...	120	6th and 13th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	12th April, 1898.	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	340		

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

A correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 12th April complains of ravages committed by wild animals in Rampur bil, within the jurisdiction of Bhandaria thana in the Perozepur subdivision of the Backergunge district.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 12th, 1898.

Ravages committed by wild animals in Backergunge.

These wild animals are destroying crops and cattle. The use of fire-arms being strictly prohibited in the district, there is nothing to save the crops from ravages committed by wild animals. Last year panchayets were granted passes for fire-arms; but the conditions on which the passes were granted being very stringent, few passes were taken out. At least ten passes should be issued this year. Babu Bihari Lal Rai Chaudhuri, a panchayet in Bhandaria thana is an able and painstaking public servant. If he be appointed head panchayet and entrusted with the distribution of the fire-arms for which passes will be granted, the depredations committed by wild animals will be easily put down.

2. A correspondent of the same paper complains of exaction of illegal fees by peons attached to the Mohanganj hat, near Barisal town in the Backergunge district.

KASIPUR NIVASI,

Exaction of illegal fees by hat peons.

3. According to a correspondent of the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 14th April, the book *Ummahat-e-Mumenin* (see Report on Native Papers for 19th March 1898, paragraph 1) is calculated to wound the religious susceptibilities of the Musalman community of India. The author has vilified the character of the Prophet in very bad language. It rests with the Government to do justice in the matter.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
April 14th, 1898.

An objectionable publication.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

4. According to the *Sansodhini* of the 6th April, bribery and corruption reign rampant not only in law courts, but in their environments as well. It is said that the *amla*, court peons and even high officers of Government are found tripping, some openly in court, others outside the court; some accept bribe in cash, others in kind.

SANSODHINI,
April 6th, 1898.

Bribery in law courts.

(d)—Education.

5. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 13th April says:—

Bengali in the F. A. and B. A. Examinations of the Calcutta University.

Many were previously of opinion that owing to the undeveloped state of Bengali which has only recently acquired importance as a language and literature, it would be hard to set a paper on the subject which would come up to the requirements of the F. A. and B. A. Examinations of the Calcutta University. Any doubts, however, as to whether it was possible to frame questions on the subject sufficiently stiff have been set at rest by this year's questions, which were by no means easier than the questions on other subjects, and were such as none but those who had studied the language very carefully were expected to answer.

HINDU RANJIKA,
April 13th, 1898.

It is our earnest desire that the Calcutta University should admit Bengali into the curriculum of its higher examinations. There does not appear to be any foundation for the fear that the introduction of Bengali will seriously interfere with the study of Sanskrit. The glory of Sanskrit will remain undimmed; but if an effort is made to raise Bengali to the status of an optional second language, it will have the effect of improving the language and lead to its culture by other nations. As a national literature is a clear index of the national character, so long as we cannot improve our literature it is useless to expect improvement in other directions.

6. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 15th April asks the Government to introduce the teaching of Bengali in the Calcutta Mad-rassa as nothing but the teaching of that language will regenerate Bengal Musalmans. English and Urdu may serve as a medium of knowledge to higher-class Musalmans, but no knowledge can be conveyed to the masses except through

Teaching of Bengali to Bengal Musalmans.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 15th, 1898.

the medium of Bengali. It is a matter of regret that the leaders of the Muhammadan community are so blinded by aristocratic pride as to be completely indifferent to the welfare of the mass of their co-religionists.

HITAVADI,
April 15th, 1898.

7. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th April says that the new rule requiring candidates for the Mukhtarship Examination to have passed the Entrance Examination should have been given effect to after two years' previous notice in order to prevent disappointment to those who are preparing for it after passing the Middle-English or the Middle-Vernacular Examination.

HITAVADI.

8. The same paper points out some additional defects in *Ramer Rajya-bhisek* [a selection of the Central Text-book Committee].

HITAVADI.

9. A correspondent of the same paper defends Babu Nabin Chandra Sen's "Palasir Yuddha" against a critical attack upon it for certain alleged grammatical errors.

Babu N. C. Sen's "Palasir Yuddha."

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 12th, 1898.

10. With the advent of Spring, says the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 12th April, appeared small-pox which is still doing havoc among the population of Burdwan. A panic has seized upon the people and many are leaving the town in the hope of escaping contagion. In this crisis, however, those who are responsible for the health of the town seem to be quite apathetic. A little lime is no doubt thrown here and there, but surely the responsibility of the Municipal Corporation does not end there. The roads should be kept scrupulously clean, and the bazars free from all impure and putrid vegetables and other eatables. The attendants of small-pox patients should be prohibited from going freely about and the belongings of the dead should be destroyed or at least removed to a great distance. Burdwan boasts of a Health Officer and a Sanitary Inspector, and they should do their best to check the spread of the fell epidemic, which has already brought grief and desolation to many a household.

HITAVADI,
April 15th, 1898.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th April says that the condition of many places in the suburbs under the administration of the Calcutta Municipality is worse than that of many villages. What comforts the people of the suburbs enjoy in exchange for a municipal rate of 19½ per cent. will be evident from a numerous signed complaint to the effect that the residents of Maherpur in ward No. 23 have not obtained a supply of filtered water for nearly two full weeks, and that the vessels which they have to place, under the orders of the Municipality, for the reception of foul water from privies are seldom cleared by municipal *mehters* and emit a foul stench. Government is busy devising measures for preventing an out-break of the plague. But a state of things like this is very likely to engender plague in Calcutta.

SANJIVANI,
April 16th, 1898

12. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th April takes the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta to task for having granted leave to their Engineer, Mr. Hughes, while a Sub-Committee was sitting to enquire into the charges of corruption, &c., preferred against him by the Vice-Chairman. The writer says that some of the Commissioners at least are not above the breath of suspicion, for, it is alleged that they are very intimate with municipal contractors and accept many services at their hands, contrary to all laws and regulations.

SANJIVANI.

13. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, observes the same paper, said in the Council, at the time of the introduction of the Municipal Bill, that there being no representative of the poorer classes on the Municipal Board, one should be appointed under the new law and placed on the General Committee. Among the fifteen nominated Commissioners, however, there is not one who may be taken as a representative of the poorer classes. The Government willing, one such Commissioner, however, might have been appointed. It passes one's comprehension why such a representative can be appointed only when the proposed law has been passed and not at present.

14. The *Bangavasi* of the 16th April has the following with reference to the appointment of an Official Chairman to the Chapra Municipality.

BANGAVASI,
April 16th, 1898.

The Chairman question in the Chapra Municipality. The appointment of the District Magistrate to the Chairmanship of the Chapra Municipality has displeased most of our contemporaries, but this arrangement meets with our fullest approval. In a conquered country it is the ruler who levies the tax, protects the people and maintains the public peace. We should not grudge the ruler these rights which unmistakably belong to him. We need not and should not uselessly incur the curse of the people by undertaking this municipal work—this work of removing filth. Municipal administration means the imposition of taxes on the people, and this is a duty which the ruler should perform and not we the subject people. It is downright impertinence to oppose the Government or its officers in the discharge of their legitimate duties. You have become a pleader or a barrister through the kindness and favour of the British Government. Be satisfied with your position. Why incur the curse of the people by coming forward, uncalled, as a tax-gatherer? So long the Government gave us the Delhi *laddu* of Local Self-Government for unpaid services willingly and gladly done to it by us. It is very well that the Government will now do its own work. There is nothing to regret in this. Let us rather avail ourselves of this opportunity and pass our days in the contemplation of God.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

15. In the opinion of the *Bangavasi* of the 16th April the Court of Wards should undertake the management of the estate of the late Maharaja Gobinda Lal Roy. There seems to be utter mismanagement of family affairs and the estate property is being misappropriated. Domestic mismanagement and distrust should not be allowed to ruin such a great family. The Lieutenant-Governor should come to its rescue.

BANGAVASI,
April 16th, 1898.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

16. A correspondent writes to the *Charumihir* of the 11th April, from Itna in the Mymensingh district, to say that the abolition of the Sylhet steamer service from the 15th March has caused very great inconvenience to the people, particularly to jute merchants who have erected godowns at Itna, Nikali, &c. The correspondent adds that if the service did not pay well, smaller vessels might be run between Chatak and Dilalpur, say, twice a week.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 11th, 1898.

17. A correspondent reports in the same paper the sudden silting up of Manik Khali, a canal passing through Baghata, a village in the Kisoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district, through the mysterious agency of the recent earthquake, and the inconvenience this has caused to the villagers who depended on the *khal* for their water-supply. The little water that is still in its raised bed is so impure as to be undrinkable.

CHARU MIHIR.

18. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 12th April deprecates the proposal to excavate a drain, one mile long, from the Burdwan jail to the Sapjola *khal*, at a cost of Rs. 3,000. At present the waste water of the jail finds its way to a pool a little way off, which might, at very little cost, be converted into a pond and serve as a reservoir, or which might empty itself into the fields. The jail daroga does not see any necessity for the proposed *khal* upon which, however, the Engineer is said to have set his heart. It is urged that the best plan will be to construct a drain from the jail to the *pucka* drain to the west of the building, because while it will serve the purpose infinitely better it will cost the Government very little.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.
April 12th, 1898.

19. According to the *Jyoti* of the 14th April, there was lately a vexatious railway prosecution at Chittagong. The Station Master of that place prosecuted a passenger who had been over-carried from Bhatiari and who was willing to pay the usual excess fare and fine. As the Court ordered him to pay what he had already

JYOTI,
April 14th, 1898.

offered, the Railway Company gained nothing but incurred some unnecessary expense in prosecuting the case.

HITAVADI,
April 15th, 1898.

20. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th April says that dealers selling food articles to native passengers at the stations on the East

Railway complaints. Indian Railway are required to pay very heavy fees and have to recoup themselves by selling bad articles. Why should not these dealers have the same privileges as Messrs. Kellner and Company? The arrangements for the supply of drinking-water at stations are also defective. One *pani-pandê* cannot supply all the thirsty passengers with water in two or three minutes.

A correspondent of the same paper complains of exactions by goods clerks at the Sealdah station. Outsiders are not readily supplied with goods forms. The clerk who fills up a form charges 1 anna, the marksman takes 2 pice, the weighman the same amount and the clerk who grants the receipt 1 anna or 2 pice.

The same paper publishes the following telegram from another correspondent:—

"Mr. Manicton of the Pandoul Factory, Darbhanga, committed a severe assault on the Assistant Station Master on the night of the 4th April, alleging insolence, while two trains were crossing at the station. In the struggle, money was thrown, the ticket almirah was disturbed and lamps were broken. Blows were continued till the Assistant Station Master fell senseless in the office building. A doctor examined the wound which was serious.

An accident of two crossing trains was averted by the Station Master having promptly taken out the point-keys and adjusted them. A telegram was sent to the Railway Police at Darbhanga and Somastipur, and the District Magistrate at Darbhanga. The wounded Assistant Station-Master was suspended summarily by the Traffic Officer on complaint from Mr. Manicton. Permission was solicited by the Assistant Station Master to prosecute his assailant, but with no result. The Subdivisional Magistrate of Madhubani arrived at Sakri on the evening of the 5th, and recorded the statement of the railway employes. The result is not known. Particulars will follow."

The editor remarks that it was very wrong of the Traffic Officer to suspend the Assistant Station Master so hastily.

Another correspondent of the same paper complains that trains on the steam tramway between Howrah and Jagadballabhpur are every day overcrowded and the engine frequently gets out of order on the way. On the 20th March last the engine got out of order at Domjur, and the passengers numbering nearly a hundred were detained up to 2 A.M.

SANJIVANI,
April 16th, 1898.

21. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th April says that the authorities of the East

A suggestion to the East Indian Railway authorities. Indian Railway will confer a great boon on zanana ladies travelling by the railway by issuing a circular permitting the male escorts of such lady passengers to pass out with them by the ladies' gate at the Howrah station. The existing arrangement which prevents their male attendants from escorting them through the ladies' gate frightens and confounds them, though their tickets are collected by a European lady at the gate.

BANGAVASI,
April 16th, 1898.

22. Ambika Charan Gupta of Bhangamora writes in the *Bangavasi* of the 16th April, complaining of the conduct of the station staff of the Tarkeswar railway station. On

A Railway complaint. 18th March last Pandit Chandrakanta Pandê of Somanuf found a railway peon of the station dragging a woman with a child of two or three years by the cloth. He and two other gentlemen protested against this, whereupon a young railway employé, with a mark on his nose, ordered the peon to arrest the Pandit and take him to the Station Master. The woman was let off after being made to pay something to the railway employes, and the Pandit was also made to pay seven annas as fare for the child carried on the arms of the woman. The Pandit was given the following receipt for his money:—

"Received annas 7 as excess fare from the holder of 3rd class ticket No. nil, from Chandranagore to Tarkeswar, on account of one child without ticket in connection with his 3rd class parent's ticket, No. 4586." The Agent of the Railway Company is requested to make an enquiry into this complaint.

23. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash* of the 18th April says that the

SOM PRAKASH,
April 18th, 1898.

Wanted a feeder road to a railway station.

absence of a road connecting the Bahirkhand station on the Tarkeswar Railway—a station which is yielding an unexpectedly large income—with the surrounding villages has been a source of great inconvenience to people who have to come to and go from that station. With only the narrow ridge-paths across the fields as the only means of communication with the villages referred to, the inconvenience of people walking to or from the station, especially in the rainy season, can be better imagined than described. A road, only three miles long, connecting the station in a southerly direction with the old Benares Road and passing through the village of Gopinathpur will be a boon to the villagers.

(h)—General.

24. The *Sansodhini* of the 6th April complains that apprentices for the

SANSODHINI,
April 6th, 1898.

Apprentices in the Commissioner's Office, Chittagong.

office of the Commissioner of Chittagong are no longer recruited from among undergraduates on a monthly allowance of Rs. 10. In their place are taken extra copyists who have no sort of University qualifications. This new scheme has done great injustice to educated young men, of whom hundreds leave college every year. It is nothing short of *zulm* to ignore the claims of the educated classes and patronise the uneducated section of the community.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 12th April has the following :—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 12th, 1898.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie has left the shores of India, but he is still being talked about in every circle. Some say that he did no good to Bengal, that he was not a friend of the Bengalis, that he was an opponent of self-government and high education, and that he wanted to destroy the rights of tenants. Others declare that it has been very improper and foolish on the part of the British Indian Association to present an address to so unpopular a ruler.

We know that we have many wants and grievances which ought to be removed, but which Sir Alexander could not remove during his term of office. We ask, however, who, among Sir Alexander's predecessors, and how many of them, if any, made greater efforts to do good to the country? When other Lieutenant-Governors received addresses, why should not one be presented to Sir Alexander? If it is urged that it is sinful to bestow a gift on an undeserving person, we should enquire if it is possible to make a distinction between the deserving and the undeserving in every case. The Hindus never admit that there can be any sin in charity, even to an undeserving person; but on the other hand, they claim that no very strict rules should be laid down in regulating charity, and that no beggar should be sent away empty handed. The British Indian Association's address may be supported from another point of view. In this *kaliyuga* the English may well be classed with the Brahmans of old and claim the homage due to the latter.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie served long in Bengal, and the Bengalis received ample proofs of his kindness and generosity. So they were naturally very much pleased when he was raised to the *musnud* of Bengal. He passed the greater portion of his life in this province and entertained a feeling of love for the people which was equally sincerely returned by the latter. And what possible evil did he do towards the close of his official career that he should have at once forfeited our respect?

The Bengalis had expected a deal too much from Sir Alexander, but did he possess the power to fulfil their wishes? Surely he was not the autocrat of all Russias that in one day he could remove all our grievances. His hands were in a manner tied, and everything that involved expenditure required the sanction of the Government of India. Under these circumstances we cannot blame him if he failed to do much for us. His heart being still what it was before, we do not understand why any blame whatever should attach to those who have honoured him.

One charge against Sir Alexander is that he was a supporter of the Sedition Bill. We should, however, bear in mind that he was not its author, nor did the idea originate with him. The British Government felt its necessity, and the measure was launched. Can it be just that Sir Alexander should be taken to task

because he gave his honest opinion in this connection? True, we are not disloyal, but it should at the same time be admitted that our words and actions often betray indiscretion. The fact is, Sir Alexander always spoke what he felt, and would not descend to a lie to maintain his prestige and reputation. He deserves our respect all the more for this truthfulness.

As for the charge that Sir Alexander was an enemy of high education, it may be asked if he abolished a single college. He might not have spent lavishly on high education; but what he said at the Science Association must be taken as true. His idea was that what India needed most at the present moment was not high education, but technical education which would enable the people to earn money. In this view, we think, every thoughtful man must agree.

Then, again, is it true that Sir Alexander was not partial to self-government? When we raise the cry of self-government in danger, we should consider if the Indian soil is congenial to its growth. When we have not yet learnt to effectually control our thoughts and actions, how can it be possible for us to govern ourselves? Sir Alexander sought to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act, because he found that too many cooks were spoiling the dish, and so he wanted to reduce the number of Commissioners for the better performance of their duties. In this connection, too, we do not see how we can blame him. The Government has not really made a gift of Calcutta to the Commissioners. It still retains the proprietary right. What it desires to see is all-round improvement; and because it finds obstacles in the way of fulfilling this desire, it seeks to amend the existing law. The chief aim of the present movement is to remove the grievances and add to the comfort and convenience of the residents of Calcutta. One who introduces so useful an amendment deserves thanks and not blame. Though Sir Alexander probably had not much faith in the elective system, he did not abolish it. The elective system does not, however, deserve much support, for it hardly makes any distinction between the wise and the foolish, the rich and the poor, the young and the old. We cannot any more be tempted by the charms of a system under which men like Dr. Rash Behary Ghosh fail to achieve success; and we would not have blamed him even if Sir Alexander had abolished it.

The late Lieutenant-Governor has also been found fault with for trying to amend the present Tenancy Act which is at best a one-sided measure, because it the raiyats tends to benefit at the expense of the zamindars. Sir Alexander, therefore, wanted to amend the law in such a manner as to lessen the pressure on and inconvenience to, the zamindars. For this he very naturally deserves the thanks of the Landholders' Association.

Lastly, it does not surely become an intelligent person to grumble that Sir Alexander did not do this or that for us. No one can do aught for another. Heaven only helps those who help themselves. The Indians should first deserve and then desire.

JYOTI,
April 14th, 1898.

26. A correspondent urges, in the columns of the *Jyoti* of the 14th April, the necessity of opening a post-office at Roshangiri in the Chittagong district, as the want of one causes great inconvenience to the inhabitants and traders of the village. They are willing to advance the cost of maintaining a post-office for six months, and to find suitable accommodation for the same.

HITAVADI,
April 15th, 1898.

27. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th April publishes a letter from a correspondent complaining that cannon-practice in the Diamond Harbour fort is attended with serious inconvenience to the people of 35 or 36 villages on the south side of the river, who, including dying persons and females approaching their confinement, have to remove to a distance with their cattle on the occasion. The correspondent suggests that this inconvenience may be prevented by shooting along the river which runs straight before the fort, and the reach of which here is eight or ten miles. Houses are also demolished by cannon-balls and thefts committed on occasions of such cannon-practice and the consequent desertion of houses.

HITAVAD,

28. The same paper publishes a complaint that since the reduction of the Bahalda sub-post-office to a branch post-office letters reach Chaibassa from that office in four days instead of four hours as formerly, to the great loss of traders who cannot get receipt

for their articles in time. The Maharaja of Moyurbhanj has now abolished the duty which he used to charge on postal deposits kept in his Bahalda treasury. Why should not the post-office then be restored to its former status?

29. The same paper is very sorry to hear that Government has rejected the prayer of the Natu brothers for their release.

The Natu brothers.

Government has been obliged to say that there is no evidence of the guilt of the Natus. Will it not be honest to correct its error instead of persisting in tormenting innocent people for the sake of prestige?

30. The *Samay* of the 15th April has the following in its review and retrospect of the last year :—

Lord Elgin and Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Last year as in previous years Lord Elgin was at the head of the Government in India. He gave absolutely no proof of ability in the administration of the country, and allowed himself to be made a tool in the hands of his councillors. He carried out the behests of the Secretary of State without hesitation and without stopping to enquire whether they were just or unjust. None of the acts done in Lord Elgin's name during the year was praiseworthy, and in one year he has done the country greater harm than any of his predecessors could do in five. Tilak's imprisonment, the confinement of the Natu brothers, the prosecution and persecution of the editors of the *Vaibhav*, the *Pratod* and others, the Sedition Act, the frontier war, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Post-office Act—these are some of the acts done in course of one year of Lord Elgin's administration. There was some agitation in England last year concerning the frontier war, and it was proposed to induce the Home Government to bear a portion of the expense incurred on account of the war, but the Government of India unhesitatingly declared that India was able to bear the whole expense. There was a bumper crop in the country, and there would be a surplus without the imposition of a new tax. The fact is that if the English people were made to bear a portion of the cost of the frontier war, they would no doubt closely and jealously examine the management of Indian finances and exercise a control over it. Such interference would be sure to prevent the Government of India from spending the money of the Indian tax-payers according to its own sweet will, and would also stand in the way of the Secretary of State patronising and maintaining his proteges and parasites. The Government dreads British interference in the management of Indian finances, and this is the reason why it declined British help in the frontier war. As for the so-called improvement in the financial condition of the Indian people, suffice it to say that the bumper crop notwithstanding, the price of corn is almost as high as it was in the year of scarcity. The Government, it is true, has not imposed a new tax, but it has proposed to raise a loan of about 12 crores of rupees.

To tell the truth, Lord Elgin did not, last year, do a single act which is likely to enhance his reputation or endear him to the Indian public. Lord Elgin is a Liberal, but he did not act like a Liberal during the last year. He himself has admitted that his authority is nominal and he is bound to carry out the mandates of the Secretary of State. Lord George Hamilton has made the Liberal Viceroy of India a cat's-paw and whenever the Indian administration is attacked by the Liberals, he is in the habit of declaring that a Liberal and not a Conservative is responsible for it. Lord Elgin ought to have resigned when the change of ministry took place in England, but since he has not done that he must be held responsible for his action even though he may have blindly obeyed the orders of the Secretary of State in all that he has done.

As for Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the late Lieutenant-Governor, he made himself very much unpopular during the last year. He initiated many measures which are likely to produce very undesirable consequences. His Tenancy Act Amendment Bill which will come as a thunderbolt upon the poor Indian raiyat has passed the hands of the Select Committee, and the Calcutta Municipal Bill, which proposes to strike at the very root of Local Self-Government, has been referred to the Select Committee.

Sir John Woodburn has assumed the reins of Government under highly disadvantageous circumstances. The Calcutta Municipal Bill is pending, the relations between the ruler and the ruled have been strained, suspicion is rampant, the public have been greatly annoyed by Sir Alexander's speech on

HITAVADI,
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the Sedition Bill, and they have not yet recovered from the effects of the famine and the alarm created by the plague. The sedition law prevents people from giving vent to their feelings and ventilating their grievances. Sir John Woodburn will have to proceed very carefully and cautiously and to see that the people are not oppressed by executive officers who have lately been invested with all but absolute powers. Sir Alexander Mackenzie did his best to offend and irritate us during his brief rule. His retirement comes to us as a relief, and Sir John Woodburn's appointment to the Lieutenant-Governorship makes us hope for a better state of things although it does not elate us with joy.

SANJIVANI,
April 16th, 1898.

31. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th April has the following:—

Agricultural banks.

When the Hon'ble Mr. Nicholson proposed in the Supreme Legislative Council that Government should lay out, say, 25 lakhs every year for the establishment of agricultural banks in the country for the relief of impoverished and helpless raiyats, Sir James Westland threw out the proposal on the ground of shortness of funds.

The Government cannot spend 25 lakhs annually for the benefit of 21 crores of people, but feels no hesitation in squandering, if necessary, seven to eight crores on wars. Whenever a proposal is brought up for the amelioration of the condition of the subject people, it is rejected on the score of want of funds, but the same want of funds does not exist when the question is of receiving help from England in the prosecution of frontier wars or in the improvement of the army. It is, indeed, surprising how the Finance Member could blow hot and cold in the same breath.

SANJIVANI.

32. Munsifs, says the same paper, are very industrious and painstaking and have to labour very hard, so much so that in most cases they fall victims to diabetes and

The condition of Munsifs.

other incurable diseases and sink to an early grave. The High Court has made many representations to Government to increase the number and salary of Munsifs, but to very little effect. Sir Henry Prinsep opened the question recently in the Supreme Legislative Council, and in reply Sir James Westland said that from experience he knew that the Munsifs were very generously treated, had many holidays, attended the court for as few hours as they liked, and might be made to work harder.

Sir James' experience of judicial work is almost nil. After coming out to India he served for five years in the Executive Branch of the public service, and for one year as the Officiating Magistrate of Jessore. Since then he has been for 30 years employed on financial or administrative work, and has had, therefore, no opportunity to study the nature of judicial work. Perhaps he thinks that complicated civil suits can be decided as easily as criminal cases. Of course, all this is mere guess work to him. That the Munsifs are hard-worked is acknowledged by even parties to a suit, and yet the Finance Member recommends that more work should be extorted from them. Really, if they could help it, the Munsifs and Subordinate Judges would have thrown up their appointments and taken to agriculture.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 16th, 1898.

33. The *Som Prakash* of the 18th April publishes the following letter in

Mr. Brajendra Kumar Sil's claim to a High Court judgeship.

English received from one N. Pal, regarding the supersession of Mr. Brajendra Kumar Sil, District Judge of Birbhum, by Mr. Pratt and Mr. B. L.

Gupta:—

"SIR,

I would be obliged by your kindly inserting the following words of mine in your impartial weekly:—

You must have heard that the two High Court appointments have been given to Mr. Pratt and to Mr. B. L. Gupta, both of whom are the juniors of Mr. Seal, the well-known and experienced District Judge of Birbhum. He is now at the top of the first grade of Judges. Mr. Pratt stands just below Mr. Seal, and Mr. B. L. Gupta stands below Mr. Pratt. We expected that Mr. Seal should get Mr. Chundra Madhub Ghose's place. Very likely the authorities thought that a member of the covenanted service should have preferential claim, but that is entirely a mistake. The Secretary of State had

once ruled that the Statutory Civilians should get only the list of appointments, viz:—

- (1) District Judgeship,
- (2) District Collectorship,
- (3) Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
- (4) Under-Secretary to Government.

The Statutory Civilians went up to the Secretary of State and fought for their rights as they were at the creation of the service, and the Secretary of State decided that they should get all the appointments open to the Covenanted service, provided they are fit for these. The Government of India in their letter No. ^{14-Publi c}₁₂₃₃, dated Simla, the 17th July 1894, said as follows—: "I am directed to say that the Secretary of State has now expressed the opinion that the claims of these officers to promotion should not be considered with reference to the list of such posts alone, but with reference to the conditions which were understood to regulate their promotion when they were first appointed to offices in the Indian Civil Service. Accordingly when a Statutory Civilian attains a position in which according to his seniority in the graduation list of the Indian Civil Service, his claims to a higher appointment have to be examined, it should be considered whether he is of such proved merit and ability as to justify his promotion to such appointment whether it is a list of appointment or not and the provisions of Statute, 24 and 25 Vic., Ch. 54 and 3 will be made use of if necessary in cases to which it is applicable."

None can question the competency of Mr. Brojendro Kumar Seal. His competency has been admitted by the Local Government as well as the Hon'ble High Court. Twice he was recommended for the High Court Judgeship by the Local Government—once when Mohendra Babu was appointed, and a second time when Guru Das Babu was appointed. Apart from Mr. Seal's position as a member of the Statutory Service by working as a subordinate for over seven years, he qualified himself for the High Court according to section 2 of 24 and 25 Vic., Ch. 104, and still his claims have been ignored simply on account of the ignorance of the rules. The educated public are sorry and burning with indignation at the gross injustice done to Mr. Seal at the close of his career. During the earlier part of his service he always got double promotion. He became the Subordinate Judge from the second grade Munsif's list which none in the service ever got. And then from the second grade Subordinate Judgeship he got the District Judgeship in 1881, and after working as a District Judge for 17 years, he is now being superseded by his juniors! Unfortunately Sir Alexander Mackenzie, was too unwell to pay attention to the claims of Mr. Seal, otherwise we believe he would have been glad to support him. Perhaps Mr. Seal is still under the impression that justice will be done to him in the *regime* of our newly appointed and worthy Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn and the impartial Chief Justice the Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean."

The editor agrees with the correspondent in condemning the injustice which has been done to Mr. Seal, and hopes that the Chief Justice and the new Lieutenant-Governor will yet set matters right. It was a mistake to ignore the claims of Mr. Seal to a High Court Judgeship when Babu Guru Das Banerji was given an appointment on the bench of that Court. Mr. Seal had a stronger claim to the post than Babu Guru Das Banerji.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

34. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th April has the following:—

The Police Bill. Punishment in law courts and the practice of requiring recognisances to keep the peace and of appointing people guilty of committing disturbances, special constables are sufficient to maintain peace in the country. These have put a stop to riots and affrays, of which zamindars and planters formerly used to be guilty. Anglo-Indian papers magnified the Tala riot into a huge affair and thereby alarmed many officials.

The provision in the Police Bill about the appointment of additional police forces will produce many mischiefs. It will add in these days of scarcity to the burden on the people, will punish the innocent and the guilty alike, and will also increase police oppression, as the additional police will seek to justify its existence by trying to make out petty quarrels as serious disturbances.

HITAVADI,
April 15th, 1898.

SOM PRAKASH,
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35. The *Som Prakash* of the 18th April strongly objects to sections 552 and 560 of the new Calcutta Municipal Bill. If section 552 is passed into law, Hindus will be prevented from removing their dead to the burning ghât as soon as life is extinct, and in virtue of section 560, the dead body of every Hindu who expires after 8 in the evening, will have to be burnt the day after, because it will not be easy for everybody to procure the Chairman's special permission. Both the sections will seriously interfere with the custom of the Hindus in regard to the burning of their dead, and especially the latter section, because the Hindus have a superstitious fear of letting a dead body remain uncremated till the day after death. Death has ever been known to give a man his last rest, but Mr. Risley's new Bill proposes to take away from a resident of Calcutta even that last rest and solace.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

JYOTI,
April 14th, 1898.

36. In spite of all that the authorities might say to the contrary, the condition of Chittagong, says the *Jyoti* of the 14th April, is getting worse and more deplorable every day. A man of village Ahlai, in Patiya, when arrested by the police for the theft of a few seers of rice, declared the other day that he was led to commit the offence by the pangs of hunger, having had nothing to eat for four days together. It is said that the number of starving people in the Chittagong district is by no means small.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
April 10th, 1898.

37. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 10th April has the following:—
A plague panic in Barisal. There is a cry of "the plague, the plague" and quite a panic in Barisal. People are now even dreaming of plague, and are quite bewildered with fear on the occurrence of a case of simple mumps. In Barisal there is a rumour that there occurred five cases of plague in Debergati—a village some 12 or 13 miles west of the town—with three deaths. We were alarmed on hearing of this, but were re-assured on subsequently learning that the cases were cases of diphtheria and not of plague. The men attacked with the disease had their throats affected, but were free from any swelling in their groins, which is a characteristic symptom of plague. The Magistrate has ordered the police to make an enquiry into the cases, but we think it would have been better if an enquiry by medical experts had been ordered. Diphtheria, too, is a fatal and infectious disease, and its spread should be speedily checked. A competent medical man should be sent to Debergati, for who knows but that the cases which are attributed to diphtheria may be those of plague in a form different from that in which it is raging in Bombay. But even if the cases are those of diphtheria, the authorities cannot be too careful in arresting its course.

HINDU RANJIKI,
April, 13th 1898.

38. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 13th April says:—
A destructive fire at Boalia. A most destructive fire, the like of which had not been seen in the town for two decades and more, broke out at Boalia on Friday, the 8th April. Three to three hundred and fifty houses were reduced to ashes, of which seven or eight were brick-built houses. Three persons were burnt to death and half-a-dozen heads of cattle were roasted alive. At the least computation, property to the value of about two lakhs was destroyed. The Municipal employés did their best to check the progress of the fire, but the police showed very little activity. Indeed, the latter only arrived on the scene when the fury of the conflagration had a little abated, and then began to annoy and find fault with those who were working from the first. Whatever may be the idea of the Bengal Government as to the want of discipline among Rajshahi boys, they did signal service during the fire, hazarding their lives to save the property of others. Nay, but for the untiring exertions of these schoolboys several other pukka houses would have been destroyed. The District Magistrate being away on tour, the Deputy Collector in charge, the two Assistant Magistrates, Messrs. Jeffrey and Salkeld, and the District Superintendent of Police were on the scene issuing instructions and giving encouragement to those who were making gigantic efforts to

cope with the fire. Among others, Mr. Jeffrey, no doubt, deserves thanks, but his rude behaviour towards a gentleman, who stood on the top of a burning hut to extinguish the fire, has caused great dissatisfaction. Why he administered to the native gentleman a few cuts with his cane is simply inexplicable; and he would probably have been well served, as the latter turned upon him with a huge axe, but for the timely intervention of a few spectators.

39. Speaking of the insanitary condition of Sitakunda, the *Jyoti* of the 14th April suggests the adoption of the following measures as being necessary to the health of the increasing number of pilgrims who now visit the shrine on the occasion of almost every Hindu festival:—

(1) The bringing of water from the Swayambhu temple and Sahasradhara to the Sitakunda bazar where pilgrims generally congregate.

(2) Erection of permanent privies, appointment of a permanent staff of *mehters* and the regular removal of filth.

(3) Making additions to the existing charitable dispensary of the District Board, and stocking it with a fresher and larger supply of medicines. The establishment of a permanent cholera hospital and entertaining the services of a compounder to assist the doctor in charge.

(4) Watering the streets.

(5) Inspection of pilgrims' lodging houses by Government officers at regular intervals.

Though the Health Officer for *melas* has been reporting against the insanitary condition of the place, and though the pilgrims are made to pay a tax under the Puri-Lodging House Act for the improvement of the town, the water of the tanks in the locality where pilgrims put up, is so foul as to be quite unfit for human use. The permanent staff of four *mehters* is quite insufficient, considering the call on their services. Extra *mehters* are employed on the occasion of the *Sivachaturdasi mela*. This results in the accumulation of filth and propagation of cholera and other epidemics.

40. The *Sanjay* of the 15th April invites the attention of the Faridpur District Board to the severe water-scarcity prevailing in Harinbari, Kalukhali and a number of other villages within the jurisdiction of thana Pangsha. The river Padma is four miles off, while no other source of water-supply exists save a few wells, the water of which, however, is quite unfit for drinking purposes.

41. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th April writes as follows:—

Anglo-Indian partiality. The forefathers of the present degenerate Aryans of India had acquired many of those qualities which entitle human beings to the name of man, and subjection to foreign rule during the last eight hundred years has not utterly deprived their descendants of those qualities. A trace of those qualities still remains in the recesses of their hearts, and because they are conscious of this, they cannot regard themselves as savage people like the Negroes and the Zulus. But this feeling, this consciousness on their part is an unpardonable offence in the eye of the dominant race. We, however, appreciate and admire the generosity and highmindedness of Englishmen, and whatever the qualities we may be deficient in, appreciation of merit is not one of them. We, therefore, believe that the Government, and particularly the Anglo-Indian community, headed by the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* either cannot see or will not see this quality of ours. They cannot see this quality, because they are blinded by their partiality for their countrymen. This grieves the Indians and the Government, and its supporters are intensifying this grief by their jeers. We are bound to say this, although we are partial to the English Government. We are also bound to say that if we distinctly say this we shall perhaps come under the perview of the law, and that that law is only an instrument for oppressing good and popular men.

The Hindus recognised the greatness of the Musalman Akbar by likening him to God, and showed their appreciation of the nobleness of David Hare by assembling in thousands on a rainy day and following his bier to its resting-place. Every Indian who has any self-respect will, while appreciating the just and noble achievements of Englishmen, deride their pride and haughtiness.

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Are the Englishmen who are now ruling India—generous men like David Hare? Shall we, if any of them happen to die, follow his bier? And if we do not, shall we come under the perview of the law?

Is the recommendation of the *Indian Daily News* that the native who struck an English lady with a stick at Cawnpore should be whipped before his trial, one which is likely to increase our respect for the English people? We cannot say that there are not in this country other Englishmen like the writer in the *Indian Daily News*, and that his relatives, holding similar views with him, do not hold judicial offices in this country. Who is responsible for the ill-feeling which the Anglo-Indian community is exciting between Englishmen and natives in this way? If an Englishman of this type happens to be appointed Viceroy, and if that appointment produces a deep-rooted impression in the mind of the Indians, that many will be sent to jail without trial, how many officials will feel inclined to enquire into the cause of that impression?

BANGAVASI,
April 16th, 1898.

42. The *Bangavasi* of the 16th April has the following:—

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on domestic reform. It is a matter of no little satisfaction to us that the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has at last realised the

importance of "domestic reform" and the futility of political agitation, pure and simple. It is, in its opinion, clear from the attitude of the Government that it is not disposed to pay heed to the representations of the press. This being the case, it is worse than useless for a native paper to address its observations to the authorities, and it should be now its sole concern to write for the people. "As a matter of fact," writes the *Patrika*, "the leaders of the country in their zeal for political reform have hitherto perhaps too much neglected the innumerable domestic questions that we must face. * * * Besides, political reform is in the hands of others, but domestic reform is in our own hands entirely." Better late than never, and we are agreeably surprised to find the foremost organ of the Congress realising the futility of political agitation, which is the life and soul of the Congress movement.

But we have a few questions to put to our contemporary. What does it mean by "domestic reform?" A subject people, we can have nothing purely "domestic," as distinguished from something purely "foreign" or "public." Those affairs and those affairs alone are, so far as we are concerned, "domestic," in which we have not to depend upon the Government, and with which the Government has no direct connection. By "domestic affairs," therefore, we can only mean religious and social affairs and by "domestic reform" the reform of our religion and society. If this surmise is correct, the words "domestic reform" are not applicable, so far as the Hindus are concerned. The *Sanatan dharma*, the "religion eternal" of the Hindu does not admit of reform and so also that virtuous society which is based upon principles inculcated by this religion. The Hindu religion and Hindu society being perfect, there can never be any deterioration or retrogression for them and there can, therefore, be any improvement or reform of the same. The Sanskrit language will last for ever, and so also the Vedas and the Darshanas, the Purans and Sciences. Hindu society which is based upon these will also last for ever. It is true that we cannot understand the Vedas and the Purans, and cannot always live up to the ideal of life held out by Hindu society. But this is our own fault, and it behoves us to try our best to live under the guidance of the Brahmans and in obedience to the laws of our society. We should raise ourselves up to the level of our religion and society and should not drag them down to our own level. But the educated Babu is militantly disposed. He would pull down the social structure of the Hindus and rebuild it according to his own whims and caprices. This is called domestic or social reform by the educated Babu, but we have no sympathy with such domestic reform.

Our contemporary of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* also speaks of "spiritual feeling." What is meant by this "spiritual feeling?" Is it a mere religious feeling or is it a practice of religion that is meant? Degraded as our souls have become, it does not behove us to speak of "spiritual subjects." Let us now practise religion under the guidance of qualified preceptors and not according to our own lights, and this practice will give rise to a feeling of disinterested piety which may, in course of time, develop itself into a religious sentiment.

Practising *yoga* with eyes shut is not practising religion in our sense of the term. To practise religion in the way in which it should, according to our opinion, be practised, one should practise charity, feed beggars, support a large number of people, give up luxury, dig tanks, plant trees and build temples. One should spend his wealth on these and similar objects of charity. In these days, however, a man can pass for a *yogi* in spite of his reckless living and undisciplined heart, and a *jnani* after reading a few pages of the Ramayan and the Mahabharat.

We have no sympathy with such social reform, or such spiritual feeling. We have no patience with those who try to pass for reformers by agitating against the caste system, vilifying the Vedas and insulting the Brahmans. Give up politics by all means, but do not vent your spleen upon Hindu society, now that you have received a sound thrashing from the Government. Reform yourself and that will lead to the reformation of the society.

43. The same paper has several cartoons:—

Cartoons.

The first—Is taken from *Moonshine*. A pig-tailed Chinaman has spread his umbrella and is holding it against a lion with a human face. The letter-press runs as follows:—

“Well roared, Lion!
Well feigned, China!”

The second—Is copied from the weekly *Freeman*. There is a large gathering evidently yearning to see a fight between a lion and a bear. The lion has “Soudan” written on one foot and “India” written on another. An Englishman, evidently Lord Salisbury, is standing behind it. The bear has a Cossack for its keeper. The letter-press is as follows:—

“Funk.”

Salisbury.—“Are you going to fight?”

Russia.—“Yes, I am.”

Salisbury.—“Well, I am not”

The third—Is taken from the *Westminster Budget*, February 11th, 1898. Lord Salisbury, dressed like an acrobat, is in the act of jumping over a number of elephants standing side by side and respectively marked “India,” “China,” “Africa,” “Egypt,” &c. The letter-press runs as follows:—

“At the *Parliamentary Olympia*.
Will he clear them?”

The fourth—Gives the picture of an oil machine to which have been yoked a number of bulls with human faces and with spectacles on. A picture of the Queen is hanging on the wall. The letter-press is as follows:—

“Mother, how long will you make us go round and round in this way
Like bulls with eyes blind-folded?
You have yoked us to the oil machine
And are making us eternally go round it.
O mother, open our eyes
That we may see your feet.”

44. A correspondent reports in the *Sanjivani* of the 16th April prevalence of a severe water-scarcity at Haripal in the Hooghly district, and says that it may, in a great measure, be relieved by the dredging of the Kaikala khal.

Water-scarcity in the Hooghly district.

An *arkati* case.

45. The same paper publishes the particulars of a case of fraudulent cooly recruiting in which an entire household is said to have been broken up. About a year ago, one Thakur Majhi of Krishanpur, *via* Madhupur, in the Sonthal Parganas, received an invitation, purporting to have come from a relative residing in a neighbouring village. His wife, Mayda Dasi, left home the next day with her infant son to attend it, and was not heard of for a long time. Enquiries were set on foot, and it was ascertained that the story of the invitation was a hoax, and that the woman had not been to her relative's house. At home were her two daughters with her husband. Some time later, a letter was received from Mayda Dasi, saying,

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that she had been decoyed by *arkatis* to a tea garden in Assam as an agreement cooly. This intelligence preyed so heavily on Thakur's mind that he died, leaving his two daughters to be brought up by a relative. Mayda has since written home to say that her heart bled at the separation, and that she will even beg her way home on her release from the agreement. She is at present a cooly in a garden at Refain, post-office Malgherata, in the Dibrugrah district.

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April 16th, 1898.

46. The same paper requests the District Magistrate of Mymensingh and the Divisional Commissioner to enquire into the allegations of a correspondent, which it publishes in the editorial columns, about the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail and the agricultural exhibition held there recently.

The Subdivisional Officer of Tangail and the local agricultural exhibition. The correspondent says that the agricultural exhibition was only a blind for holding *nuatches*, *jatras* and other amusements, at great expense. If the main object had been the exhibition, it would have been held on the appointed day and not twice postponed, although the *tamashas* were proceeding as usual, the cost of which was met from subscriptions raised under the authority of the Subdivisional Officer.

HITAISHI,
April 19th, 1898.

47. The *Hitaishi* of the 19th April asks—when will the last be seen of the deaths of natives from European kicks, and the farce of a trial that follows such an occurrence? It is extremely desirable that Government should take note of the tension of feeling between the rulers and the ruled, which is simply the outcome of the thoughtless action of European rowdies and the farce of a trial which they have to go through.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,
April, 12th, 1898.

48. The *Paridarsak* of the 12th April fails to understand under what law Mr Hart, Assistant Commissioner of Sylhet, abused a certain Musalman witness in his court and made the witness stand in a corner of the court room for about two hours, because the man had refused to swear on the Koran. Such scenes have become very frequent in the Sylhet courts.

PARIDARSHAK,

49. The same paper hopes that, in consideration of the fact that education is still in a very backward state in Assam, the Chief Commissioner will not allow the introduction in the province of the new rule made in Bengal to the effect that in future no candidates shall be admitted to the Mukhtarship Examination who have not previously passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University.

PARIDARSAK.

50. The same paper says that the transfer of the South Lushai Hills and the Chittagong Hill Tracts to the Assam Administration will in no way benefit the Assam tax-payer, because the revenue which will be derived from these hill tracts will certainly fall far short of the cost of administering them.

PARIDARSAK,

51. A correspondent of the same paper fails to see under what system examiners for Middle and Primary examinations are appointed by the Director of Public Instruction, Assam. There is a circular which says that those teachers in every school who wish to be appointed examiners should forward their applications through Head Masters of their schools with the latter's remarks thereon. But, as a matter of fact, many teachers who have sent in their applications with the most favourable remarks of Head Masters year after year, have never been fortunate in getting an examinership, whilst other men have got them without application. In the Surma Valley this year only three of the examiners are High School teachers and they, all three, are Silchar men, not a single teacher of the Sylhet High School being so fortunate as to get an examinership, though of all high schools in Assam the Sylhet High School has the largest number of teachers and teachers more competent than those of any other school. It is also unjust that the lower teachers of high schools and especially those who are graduates should not be appointed examiners, while Head Pandits who are merely Normal School men are appointed as such.

There are two boards of moderators, one in the Surma Valley and another in the Brahmaputra Valley, whose duty it is to revise the questions set by the examiners. In spite of the supervision by these Boards, the questions which are set are not always faultless. At the last Lower Primary Examination, for instance, the questions on Mensuration were extremely difficult for the boys. And there were four questions relating to land measurement on the *bigha cottah* system, though the system taught in the Surma Valley schools is the *hal keden* system. In the Upper Primary Examination a question on Greatest Common Measure was set which gave unity for its answer.

If all these irregularities in connection with examinations the appointment of examiners are to be removed, the Director of Public Instruction should prepare lists of examiners in communication with the Head Masters of Schools, revising them as well as the Boards of Moderators at fixed intervals, say, at the end of every two years.

49. The same paper has the following in English in continuation of its articles on the same subject in former issues:—

Sylhet in Assam.

It is well known to the educated public that, the District of Sylhet had formerly belonged to the Province of Bengal. It was in 1874, under the regime of Lord Northbrook, the then Governor-General and Viceroy of India, that it was severed from Bengal and placed under the Administration of Assam. At that time a strong opposition was offered by the natives of the district to its being annexed to a Non-Regulated Province. The reason is obvious. Everybody knows the disadvantages a district of a Non-Regulated Province is to labour under. 'Till its severance the District of Sylhet had enjoyed all the privileges that any other district of Bengal now enjoys. The severance was, therefore, keenly felt—the disadvantages and misfortunes were duly anticipated; and hence was the opposition. The Government, however, while meeting the opposition and fulfilling its object held out pledges to the natives of the District to the effect that thereby neither their privileges should be curtailed, nor should their interests any way suffer.

May we now be permitted to ask our Government whether our interests are always looked after in the spirit in which those pledges were offered? We still hope our Government to be true to the pledges not only by words but by deeds also.

It is to be regretted that, although education is making rapid progress in the district and the number of graduates are daily increasing, the Administration of Assam has not yet seen its way to utilize their services. We are, indeed, grateful to the Government for imparting liberal education, but it may now be asked what does this learning and education avail of? Should this learning and education go for nothing, so far as the practical life is concerned? Should the Government educate us only to see us perish and not to prosper in the world? Certainly not; we must say it is far from what our Government desires. We, therefore, express our earnest hope that, under the gracious administration of a liberal-minded and generous ruler as Mr. H. J. S. Cotton is, the educated natives of the district will have a fair proportion of appointments not only in the Provincial Civil Service but also in the Provincial Judicial Service.

It is gratifying to learn that the district of Sylhet has produced no less than 30 Bachelors of Law. So far as this poor district is concerned, this number is, indeed, a very satisfactory one. There is no influence of egotism to say that our district is not, in point of general education and learning, inferior to any district in the East Bengal. But we are sorry to find that not a single Bachelor of Law of this district has been able to enter into the Judicial Service, though only one gentleman has been officiating at intervals for the last few years. We shall all be highly glad to see such a qualified gentleman made permanent in the post.

Now we beg leave to draw the kind attention of our benevolent and sympathetic ruler to the drawbacks and impediments that stand in our way. The difficulty felt in entering into the Judicial Service lies in our being enrolled in the High Court which requires strong recommendation of some high officials to the Registrar of the High Court. Not to attribute any malice or partiality to the Registrar, it must be made clear that there is no hard and fast rule that B. Ls. of certain districts are allowed and B. Ls. of other districts are not allowed

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to get themselves enrolled in the High Court. But we practically find that people of certain districts, from their very situation in life, are fortunate enough to succeed. But, ordained as we are by the Providence, we naturally lack in opportunities and chances to getting any such recommendation. We live in a most remote corner of the territorial jurisdiction of the High Court. Away as we are from the High Court, severed as our district has been from the Province of Bengal, we are not in any contact or communication with the Registrar of the High Court, and so we have but little chances of being personally known or introduced to him.

The inhabitants of the neighbouring districts of Calcutta hold respectable posts and high position in Bengal, and people known or related to them find favour with the Registrar, while the natives of the district, not less qualified than those of other districts, from their very isolated position, have no such advantage.

To speak the truth, the appointments of munsif are almost being monopolized by the natives of the holy lands of Hooghly and Burdwan. Suppose, for instance, one gentleman belonging to the Sylhet Bar and one to the Alipur Bar have at the same time gone before the Registrar to get themselves enrolled, and the Registrar is to take only one man. Could you expect that there is any chance for the Sylhet man? The reason is not far to seek. The Alipur gentleman should approach the Registrar through the proper channels, while the Sylhet gentleman should go direct to him. And the probability is that the Registrar will be inclined to get in the Alipore gentleman, whom he cannot refuse by reason of the letters of recommendation he has produced.

There is another point to which we beg to draw the particular attention of our Government.

In former times one of the Judges of the High Court on special duties used to visit our district for inspection purposes as is at present done in the districts of Bengal though not very often. The advantage of this visit was that the educated natives of the district would find an ample opportunity to see the Hon'ble Judge of the High Court, who could also on enquiry learn the merits of the men in the Bar. But we are sorry to say that since the severance, our district has never been fortunate to be visited by any such Judge, simply because the Government of Assam has not come forward to bear the travelling expenses of the said Hon'ble Judge. So we beg to submit that, if such a thing would still continue in our district, we might expect to be benefited by the Hon'ble Judge at whose instance the qualified natives of the district might be taken into the Judicial Service.

Besides, since the severance, competent District Judges are not generally posted to this district, and it is doubtful whether their words and opinions carry so much weight with the Registrar of the High Court.

As we have none to back us and to look after our interests, we often fail in our attempt to get ourselves enrolled in the High Court. There is also a fit example of this, fresh in our memory, to bear testimony to our assertion. An M. A., B. L. of our district, bar had. after three years' profession, tried his chance but in vain. It was, however, fortunately for him as well as for his countrymen that he was refused admission into the service. But the matter for regret is that even such a qualified gentleman—a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws, possessed of sound knowledge of literature and of legal principles—could not succeed to enter into the Judicial Service. From the past history of our district, we find that there were a good number of Munsifs amongst the natives of the district but in later times this privilege has been taken away.

In presence of these circumstances and difficulties pointed out, we earnestly hope that our generous ruler will lend his patronage towards the qualified natives of the district. If our benign Government makes the nomination, the High Court will not discard it. If the Local Government, itself or through the District Judges, be pleased to back us in this direction, the natives of the district, while going from the banks of Surma to the banks of Ganges will not meet with any difficulty in their way to get themselves enrolled. And then, and then only, we shall see that though our district has been severed from Bengal, we have not altogether been deprived of the privileges our district had formerly enjoyed.

We must also take this opportunity of drawing the kind attention of the Government that when local arrangements are made in case of temporary vacancies in the Judicial Department, preference be given to the *bond fide* natives of the district whose age would admit of their being enrolled in the High Court, after three years' practice in the Bar, for such appointment.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 23rd April, 1898.

